



The Massachusetts Chapter

Executive Director

Cathleen Haggerty
P.O. Box 9132
Waltham, MA 02454-9132
781-895-9852
Fax 781-985-9855
chaggerty@mcaap.org

Immediate Past President

Lynda Young, M.D., FAAP
Worcester, MA
508-752-4511
lyoung@mcaap.org

President

Karen McAlmon, M.D., FAAP
Winchester, MA
781-756-2067
kmcAlmon@mcaap.org

Vice President

Carole Allen, M.D., FAAP
Somerville, MA
617-629-6391
callen@mcaap.org

Treasurer

Elizabeth Brown, M.D., FAAP
Boston, MA
617-414-5461
ebrown@mcaap.org

Secretary

Julie Meyers, M.D., FAAP
Worcester, MA
508-421-6102
jmeyers@mcaap.org

District Representatives

District 1

John O'Reilly, M.D., FAAP

District 2

Philippa Sprinz, M.D., FAAP

District 3

Lisa Capra, M.D., FAAP

District 4

Joel Bass, M.D., FAAP

District 5

Sheila Morehouse, M.D., FAAP

District 6

Cheryl Kerns, M.D., FAAP

District 7

Megan Sandel, M.D., FAAP

District 8

Pearl Riney, M.D., FAAP

District 9

Paula McEvoy, M.D., FAAP

District 10

Margaret Carolan, M.D., FAAP

Counsel

Edward Brennan, Esq.
Norwell, MA
(781) 982-9143

MCAAP Web Site

www.mcaap.org

MCAAP Position Paper on Universal Vaccination for Children in Massachusetts

The values of a society are measured by how well it treats all of its most vulnerable populations, particularly its children. Investing in child health, and in particular in the prevention of illness in this population, is one of the best investments a society can make. Vaccines have proven to be highly cost effective, and the immunization of all children, regardless of their ability to pay, with all nationally recommended vaccines, has been shown to be the most powerful way to protect children and the communities around them from vaccine-preventable diseases.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has a century-old tradition of providing all the medically recommended vaccines to all children in the Commonwealth through a universal distribution system managed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH). As a result, Massachusetts has always been one of the states with the highest immunization rates (and, notably, the first in the nation for the last two years), which has resulted in a remarkably low incidence of vaccine-preventable illnesses among its citizens.

Recently, however, a number of new vaccines have been recommended for universal use in children, but the budget of the MDPH has not been increased sufficiently to provide these vaccines to all children. As a result, Massachusetts is no longer a universal distribution state. We are no longer able to provide all the vaccines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice to all children. This inability to maintain universal distribution of vaccines to all children will create significant disparities in health care within Massachusetts.

This year, the Commonwealth made a major commitment to become the national leader in the provision of universal health care to all its citizens. It would be inconsistent with this goal if we fail to provide high quality and cost effective care for our children. Universal vaccination is a cornerstone of child health services, and must be preserved. Historically, the use of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to manage our universal vaccine distribution system has proven impressively efficient and cost saving.

The Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics believes it is imperative that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts maintain its status as a universal vaccine distribution state in order to preserve the health of our most vulnerable citizens -our children. We urge the legislature and the Governor to commit to providing sufficient funds each fiscal year to fully fund, manage and distribute all nationally recommended vaccines through a universal vaccination program for all children. We urge the Commonwealth to continue to use the MDPH as the sole vehicle for vaccine distribution to all children in the State, on the basis of its extraordinary track record of national leadership in this complex and important process. With this commitment, the Commonwealth will ensure that Massachusetts remains at the forefront of vaccine administration for the protection of our children and community.